

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 20 MARCH 2022
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

To join us on Zoom, please use the link below:

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366
Password: 033643

SUNDAY 20 MARCH

8am and 10 am Holy Communion
Celebrant:

The Rev'd Connie Gerrity
Preacher:

The Rev'd Dr Wayne Brighton
5pm – Twilight Service

WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH

Midday service and lunch

SUNDAY 27 MARCH

8am and 10 am Holy Communion
Celebrant:

The Rev'd Dr Wayne Brighton
Preacher:

Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM
Midday Conversations with
Seekers. BYO lunch
5pm – Twilight Service

Coming Up

Saturday 26 March, Women's afternoon tea,
3pm at the Worship Centre

Bank Details for Direct Debit are:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank
Branch: Jamison Centre, ACT
BSB: 062 907
A/C No: 802588
Name: Holy Covenant Anglican Church

Next Steps

Last week's readings provoked us to meet the challenges before us, receive the courage that comes from our God, and to continue Jesus' work of justice. This week, the readings offer us some guidance on our next steps. One significant step is to reject the idea that suffering is God's punishment for sin and blessing God's reward for righteousness.

In Luke 13:1-9, Jesus reminds us that sometimes people are just in the wrong place and the wrong time, and they end up dead. The Galileans weren't killed because of their sins—they were brutally murdered by Roman soldiers on Pilate's command. The same for the people who died when the tower at Siloam collapsed—they were no better or worse humans than anyone else in Jerusalem, but they still died.

What Jesus doesn't do is minimise the significance of these tragic events. And we must ensure that we do not minimise the significance of the tragedies that are impacting on our world today either. The suffering of the poor, the sick, the disabled and the marginalized is **not** God's judgment on them. We must never let ourselves fall into the trap of

blaming those individuals for their situations. Where the judgement should fall is on the systems that allow and even create such suffering. Climate change, war and economic crisis impact most heavily on the most vulnerable people within our communities. Jesus is calling us to serve and protect this cohort, not to look after our own self-interests.

It's really easy to look away from pain and suffering. We can decide that we have seen enough of the war in Ukraine, or the floods in NSW and Qld. We can avoid making eye contact with the person at the shops selling the Big Issue, or the homeless person begging for money. We can choose not to call out our friend or family member who makes jokes about 'WuFlu' or domestic violence. But God uses the suffering of others to speak loudly to us. C.S. Lewis calls suffering 'God's megaphone'. Today, tomorrow, and in the days to come, God is calling us to repent of our avoidance and self-protection. We are being called to bear the fruit of caring, compassionate action on behalf of those who suffer.

How can you escape complacency?
Today, who needs you to offer
compassion and help?

Megan Watts

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A NEW START

Earlier this week I returned to the precinct from dropping food to a

client. As I drove in, I saw a woman who I thought I recognised walking up towards the St John's Care Centre. I parked the car, got closer and realised that she was a client who has been using our service for several years, however something she looked quite different this time around.

We sat down on a wooden bench and began to discuss how she had been, as it had been a couple of months since I had seen her last.

J is a young woman who had lived with her abusive partner for almost 4 years. During many of her previous visits to SJC, she had shown physical signs of domestic violence, and had recalled horrifying details of her abusive relationship.

The relationship had escalated last year, when her then partner set fire to part of her home, forcing her into emergency accommodation and in fear for her life. Last year SJC assisted J with the costs of moving to emergency accommodation and provided her with food, clothing, and cleaning supplies.

J was ecstatic to inform me that she had recently moved into a single bedroom apartment, had cut all ties with her ex-partner and some bad influences in her life. She had also successfully steered clear of the allure of drugs and alcohol for over three months.

Additionally, she had enrolled to begin an online course to study community services, as she is eager to give back to the industry which has supported her over the last few years.

St John's Care will continue to support her with food, assistance with her Internet and schooling fees, as well as providing a support pillar for her as she progresses through her life.

Hearing stories like this first-hand from our clients serves as a great reminder of the important role SJC has in assisting members of the community with recovery from trauma, and growth and development moving past it.

I would like to thank all the donors, volunteers and supporters who have made contributions to SJC which have helped people like J.

Operations Manager, Robbie Speldewinde

Items required: Olive oil 500ml, juice poppers, 'Big & Chunky' tinned soup varieties, school snacks, dishwashing tablets

Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) —

Ukraine Emergency Assistance Appeal

ABM's partner, Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance, has requested assistance as it seeks to respond to this escalating crisis. In response we have launched a tax deductible appeal which will not only seek to restore basic services for conflict-affected people in the Ukraine but also support refugees fleeing the Ukraine into Central Europe. To learn more or to donate, please encourage your parish to access our website at www.abmission.org/ukraine

ABM's Anglicans in Development is a member of the ACT Alliance which was set up by the World Council of Churches to support global emergency relief work.

*The Rev'd Dr John Deane
Executive Director, ABM*

Ukraine Emergency Assistance Appeal



Capture a delight

May the Lord of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him. Romans 15:13

What was the delight you captured on your hours walk today and brought home as a memory? I find I am seeing and savouring more detail. I see beauty like the deep purple clump of violets gone wild in the grass near the walkway that I have only briefly seen in passing before but never pondered on the how or why of their presence there. I capture the bright, ever so bright red of the front of the King Parrot's chest, so brilliant red, and it matches the brilliance of his green back when he turned about. That memory was imprinted in me for the rest of my walk home. Ah, such beauty from a wonderful creator. My gifts to bring home from my walk.

I read this quote: Watch windflowers dance in the breeze for a moment of pure joy.

Grace and peace from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Anne, servant of the Lord

<https://comewalkwithme-reflections.blogspot.com>



The joy of the dancing windflowers

SHOVEL Community Garden on ABC radio

Who knew that SHOVEL stands for Sustainability, Hospitality, Organic Vegetables (in an) Environment of Love? Congratulations to the team from the Holy Covenant Community Garden, who brought ABC Canberra's Adrienne Francis to the garden for a chat.

For those who didn't get to listen live to the interview on ABC radio, here's [the link](#).

Image supplied by ABC Canberra: Adrienne



WOMEN'S · AFTERNOON · TEA!
SATURDAY · 26 · MARCH · 2022!
3PM · IN · THE · WORSHIP · CENTRE!

Come and join us for tea, coffee and cake and an enjoyable Saturday afternoon..!

The cost will be \$5 per person.!



There is a sign-up sheet on the board at the back of the church or let Libby know on 0419 603 228!

Look forward to seeing you!!



Lent & Good Friday Appeal 2022

Your gift will change the lives of many communities living in poverty.

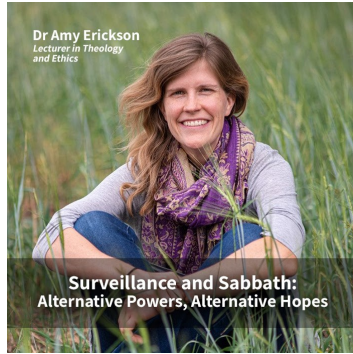


Donate online

www.abmission.org/Lent2022

Surveillance and Sabbath—28 March 2022

From social media to submarines, the world is increasingly obsessed with surveilling others to commodify and control.



Lecturer in Theology and Ethics, Dr Amy Erickson, contrasts these prevailing forms of surveillance with the spirit of Sabbath. This lecture will explore how Sabbath and surveillance depart in their approach to the act of watching, their handling of time, and their final hope.

Venue: Chapel of the Australian Centre for Christianity & Culture | 15 Blackall Street, BARTON ACT 2600

Free parking: Park in P2 Carpark

Cost of entry: Free

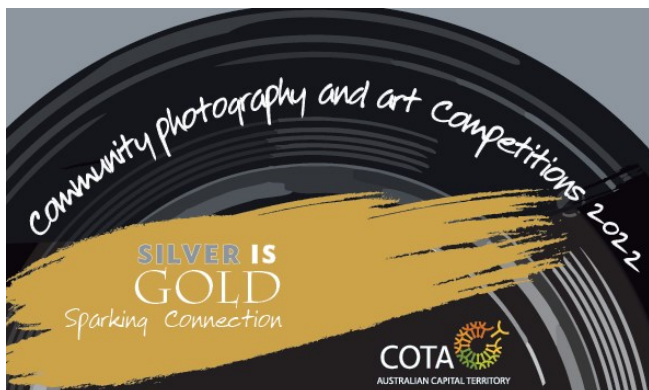
Time: 7pm

Silver is Gold Competition

Through photography or art, promote the value, contribution and importance of older people in our community.

Age entrants categories: Preschool-Year 1, Years 2-6, Years 7-10, Year 11-12, Open category people aged 18-54, Seniors people aged 55 and over.

More details at: <https://www.cotaact.org.au/events/silverisgoldartcomp/>



Crafty Crew March Gathering

Crafty Crew will meet Mon 21/3 from 9.30 - noon in the Rainbow Center.

A pair of scissors to cut paper is all you need to bring. Everything else is supplied, including morning tea.

All welcome. No pre-existing craft skills required.



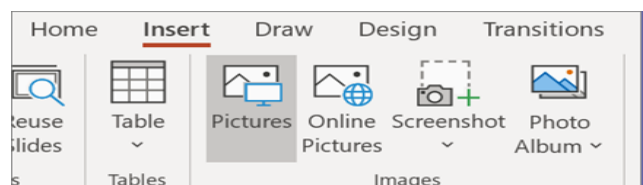
Volunteering at Holy Covenant

Here at Holy Covenant, we have over 90 volunteer roles available. Over time, we are going to explore those roles and what's involved in them. Maybe there's a new role waiting for you?

Preparing the Powerpoint and Tracking Sheets

Are you a confident user of Word and Powerpoint software? Enjoy proofreading and formatting? Keen to know what's happening in the service days before most other people? Like being part of an inclusive team? Then this is a great role for you!

Duties involve ensuring that lyrics, Psalms or other readings requested for inclusion make it into the tracking sheet; preparing the Powerpoint presentation for use by the audiovisual team, and getting these documents to the office.



Interested? Please contact the office.

Godly Play

Two weeks ago I attended three days of Godly Play training. It was eye-opening, encouraging, inspiring and restorative (for me!). Godly Play tells Bible stories experientially, in such a way that God might speak to people through the story and give wisdom for their everyday life. It is not just an intellectual or entertainment exercise, it is one which invites contemplation and transformation. In a noisy, out-comes focused world, Godly Play turns everything upside down and focuses on nurturing and inspiring relationship, and encourages participants to wonder about the mystery of God and belonging to a community. With thanks to Godly Play trainer Caryl Menkhus – Crewell, a typical Godly Play practice involves:

Getting Ready – preparing, slowing down, opening hearts, anticipating that of God in each other.

Crossing the Threshold – Choosing to leave one space and enter another, bringing one's whole self and being fully present. Coming with doubts, fears, failings and convictions, joys and strengths.

Building the Circle – Extending and receiving welcome, supporting each other's learning by giving and receiving hospitality. We make room for all to take their place.

Telling and Listening to the Story – Using an economy of words and gestures, we use story to listen to our own story.

Wondering – We speak our truth in the circle in ways that respect other people's truth and their wondering. No fixing, saving, advising or setting straight. We attempt to listen to others and ourselves more deeply.

Silence—We treat silence as a member of the group, silence is a gift in a noisy world and a way of knowing in itself. We speak to improve on silence.

Response – We respond to each other with open, honest questions and practice attending and responding to our own inner teacher: paying close attention to our own reactions and responses.

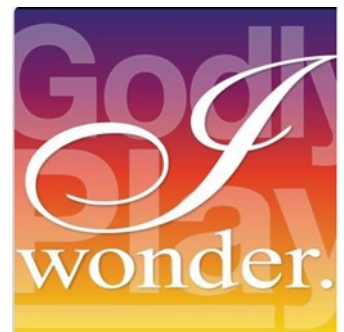
Prayers and Feast – Feasting is about who we are with, not how much we get. We take the time to express what is most deeply true and important.

Blessing – We call out the best in each other and say 'yes' to who we are most authentically are. Our ability to bless comes first out of our deep knowing that we are blessed. We are called to have the courage to be our most authentic and unique self.

Leaving – We leave the circle with whatever we needed when we joined the circle. We will continue to grow in the days ahead. Wherever we go, the light of this time and each other will be wherever and whenever we need it.

If these words have piqued your interest, or you would like to come and see it in practice, please come and have a chat.

Rev. Wendy



Have a Good Yarn

A gathering for people who like a good chat, with some added knitting, crochet or other yarn based activities. (Not all that skilled in the fibre arts, but keen to chat? Come along anyway!)

Now happening fortnightly in the Worship Centre.

Next meeting 22 March at 11am (as the yoga class finishes).





PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Peace in Ukraine
- ⇒ COVID spread in China and New Zealand
- ⇒ Relationship between India and Pakistan

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Law reform discussions in the Northern Territory, around increasing the numbers of Indigenous jurors
- ⇒ Family members giving evidence to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide
- ⇒ Those experiencing loss and assisting with recovery following flooding in NSW and QLD
- ⇒ Successful management of new COVID variant

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Riverina
- ⇒ Cootamundra
- ⇒ Temora
- ⇒ Junee
- ⇒ Junee Correctional Centre
- ⇒ Those who work in the justice system.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Jerry Platt; Barry and Carol Pogson; Anne Ranse; Wendy, Lachlan, Estelle, Isia, Lainie and Tahli Robertson.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button, Elizabeth Grant, Bev Barnes, Claire Whelband, Hilary Harris, Ted and Penny Lilley and anyone known to us personally

COMMEMORATIONS

COLLECT for 3rd Sunday in Lent

O God, the fountain of life,
to a humanity parched with thirst
you offer the living water that springs from the Rock,
our Saviour Jesus Christ:
stir up within your people the gift of your Spirit,
that we may profess our faith with freshness
and announce with joy the wonder of your love.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

READINGS

- Isaiah 55.1-9
- Psalms 63.1-9
- 1 Corinthians 10.1-13
- Luke 13.1-9

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

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Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

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The Revd. Connie Gerrity

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Resources Team

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Sunday **Hannah James**

Monday: **Hugo Walker**

Thursday: **Andrew Feitz**

Friday: **Libby Warren, Rhonda Thorpe, Des Pain**